

**DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS FOR  
A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT**

**CONTRACT NO.:** DCRL-2016-R-0031  
**CAPTION:** Training and Technical Assistance  
**PROPOSED CONTRACTOR:** KVC Health Systems, Inc.  
**PROGRAM AGENCY:** DC Child and Family Services Agency

**FINDINGS**

**1. AUTHORIZATION:**

D.C. Official Code §2-354.04, 27 DCMR 1304, 1700 and 1701.

**2. MINIMUM NEED:**

The Government of the District of Columbia, Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), is seeking to utilize the services of KVC Health Systems, Inc. (KVC), to provide training and technical assistance to continue the implementation of trauma informed and focused care within their child welfare system, to enable CFSA to continue towards becoming a Trauma Systems Treatment accredited organization.

**3. ESTIMATED REASONABLE PRICE:**

\$339,018.75

**4. FACTORS WHICH JUSTIFY SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:**

A trauma-informed system is one in which all parties involved recognize and respond to the impact of traumatic stress on the wellbeing of all individuals who have contact with the child welfare system including children, caregivers, and service providers.

In 2012 CFSA chose the Trauma Systems Therapy Model to build a trauma informed workforce and service delivery system. This includes the social work staff completing a trauma assessment to learn about a child's trauma history, understanding what behaviors and emotions may be a result of trauma, and how to best support the child or youth in addressing its impact. CFSA trained foster parents in the concepts of trauma in addition to other stakeholders to increase their awareness and be better able to support children and youth in the healing process. Trauma systems therapy is also an evidenced based practice that includes a clinical, therapeutic component that will be delivered by the Department of Behavioral Health for those youth who are identified to receive TST. TST will nurture an environment where at the individual level; children and families are asked "what happened to them vs. what is wrong with them?" At the system level it will foster an environment where systematic challenges

are addressed to alleviate stress and resources are allocated to support the work where it's most needed.

TST provides effective, evidence-based services and interventions to help children and families who have experienced traumatic events. TST was developed by Dr. Glenn Saxe, M.D., Department Chair for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at New York University, and Dr. Heidi Ellis at Boston University School of Medicine and Children's Hospital Boston.

KVC Health Systems, Inc. (KVC), a private non-profit agency, in 2008 partnered with Dr. Saxe to successfully transform its child welfare agency through integration of TST within its continuum of behavioral and child welfare services.

KVC has become Trauma Systems Certified and has partnered with Dr. Saxe to provide training, consultation and technical assistance to child welfare organizations to implement TST. The consultation will guide CFSA on how to continue integrating TST into programs, practices and processes, to ensure that the agencies/systems will be able to fully meet the needs of youth who have been exposed to traumatic events.

As TST is both a clinical and an organizational model, program staff is taught clinical assessment and treatment through the TST lens, as well as how to implement organizational systems change to become a trauma informed program. TST is the only model that includes transformation at the organizational level and not just at the child and family outcome level. Other Evidence Based Practices that focus on trauma such as Trauma Cognitive Behavioral Therapy are a clinical intervention, and while it is one component of a Trauma Systems Therapy organization, it is not a TST model.

KVC is the only organization that partners with the TST model purveyor to provide consultation to child welfare agencies and has worked with CFSA since 2012. KVC, in partnership with Dr. Saxe and his team, has consulted with child welfare agencies in West Virginia, Kentucky and Nebraska, to become Trauma Systems Treatment organizations.

KVC has been a direct service provider to the three states where KVC's expertise on integrating TST provided positive outcomes on increasing safe and timely permanency, improving placement stability and strengthening the social, emotional, and physical functioning of children and their families by addressing the impact of child traumatic stress.

KVC will provide organizational consultation, training on TST tailored to meet the competency needs for each type of audience, a series of facilitated book reviews, through webinar learning communities, of Dr. Saxe's book the ***Collaborative Treatment of Traumatized Children and Teens: The Trauma Systems Therapy Approach***, case consultation calls on the application and implementation of TST to cases, and consultation on developing a train the trainer curriculum for social workers and foster parents. Throughout this process, KVC and Dr. Saxe will work with CFSA towards becoming a Trauma Systems Treatment accredited organization.

**5. CERTIFICATION BY AGENCY HEAD:**

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Raymond Davidson  
Director  
Child and Family Services Agency

**6. CERTIFICATION BY CONTRACTING OFFICER**

I have reviewed the above findings and certify that they are sufficient to justify the use of the sole source method of procurement under the cited authority. I certify that the notice of intent to award a sole source contract was published in accordance with 27 DCMR 1304 and that no response was received.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tara Sigamoni  
Agency Chief Contracting Officer

**DETERMINATION**

Based on the above findings and in accordance with the cited authority, I hereby determine that it is not feasible or practical to invoke the competitive bidding process under either Section 402 or 403 of the District of Columbia Procurement Practice Reform Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-371; D.C. Official Code §2-354.02 or 2-354.03). Accordingly, I determine that the District is justified in using the sole source method of procurement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tara Sigamoni  
Agency Chief Contracting Officer